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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 457
By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Jeff Porter and the 1997 White House High School football team on winning the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, Division 1, Class 3-A state championship.

WHEREAS, with exceptional poise, skill and determination, the members of the outstanding 1997 White House High School football team have permanently etched their names in the glorious athletic history of our fine state and have endeared themselves to their many fans en-route to accomplishing an excellent season by winning the coveted Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Division 1, Class 3-A state championship; and

WHEREAS, the unblemished White House regular season included impressive victories over many tough opponents; they defeated Springfield 12-6, Portland 28-7, Hickman County 34-21, Macon County 43-0, Marshall County 30-6, Livingston 27-18, David Lipscomb 19-14, Greenbrier 10-5, Spring Hill 43-6 and Dekalb County 65-10; and

WHEREAS, this tremendously talented team took home the Region 4 3-A title trophy; and

WHEREAS, in the playoffs, the all powerful B.D.P. was clearly evident as the Blue Devils defeated McMinn Central 41-6 in the first round, Portland 21-13 in the second round, Chattanooga Brainerd 16-0 in the quarterfinals and Loudon 10-7 in overtime in the semifinals,

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thus reaching the historic championship game at the Clinic Bowl, held December 6, 1997 at Dudley Stadium in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, despite being a heavy underdog, White House amazed the “experts” and delighted their fans with an exciting 30-2- Clinic Bowl victory; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Devils completed their memorable season with a rare 15-0 mark; and

WHEREAS, the team has been very fortunate to be under the astute guidance of Head Coach Jeff Porter, who was honored as Tennessee Sportswriters State Coach of the Year, *Tennessean* Midstate 3-A Coach of the Year and Region 4 Coach of the Year, and his competent staff, including Assistant Coaches Jim Grantham, James Honeycutt, Mike Dawson and Mark Lamberth; and

WHEREAS, the long list of individual honors includes: Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association-American General “Mr. Football” back finalist Jonathan Finch; TSSAA-American General “Mr. Football” lineman finalist Kevin Harris; Associated Press All-State, Jonathan Finch, Kevin Harris, Pete Bloodworth, Mychael Smith and Josh Barton; Tennessee Sportswriters All-State, Jonathan Finch and Kevin Harris; Offensive Most Valuable Player Jonathan Finch, Defensive Most Valuable Player, Chad Rogers, *Tennessean* All-Midstate first team, Josh Lanius, Josh Barton, Kevin Harris, Brandon Barker, Jarod Juillarat and Pete Bloodworth; *Nashville Banner* All-Midstate first team, Kevin Harris, Mychael Smith, Chad Rogers and Jarod Juillarat; All-Region 4, Division 1, Class 3-A first team, Most Valuable Player Jonathan Finch, Top Offensive Lineman Kevin Harris, Special Teams Award Josh Barton, Corey Coker, Justin O’Guinn, Jesse Sharp, Brian Jones, Chad Rogers and Brandon Barker; 99.7 radio Defensive Player of the Year James Harper, *Robertson County Times* first team, Josh Barton, Pete Bloodworth, Jonathan Finch, Kevin Harris and Josh Lanius; and *News Examiner* All-County first team, Jonathan Finch, Brian Jones, Josh Lanius, Corey Coker, Kevin Harris, Josh Barton, Chad Rogers, Brandon Barker and Jarod Juillarat; and

WHEREAS, each of the members of the team worked hard and contributed to the success the team has enjoyed. The complete team roster includes: Jarod Juillarat, Corey Coker, Joey Rogers, Jim Smith, J.R. Carroll, Andy Tucker, Ryan Sherrill, James Harper, Chris Barnes, Rudy Farmer, Brock Waggoner, Brian Whittaker, Josh Lanius, Jonathan Finch, Josh Barton, Chuckie Jarrett, Clint Ruth, Brent Bunn, Josh Harrison, Eddie Carrigan, Jeremy Perry, Alan Hargrove, Jon Shelton, Adam Smith, Jim Stacey, Brian Jones, Jon Simpson, Jason Faulk, Chad Rogers, Josh Ahmic, Roger Smith, Chris Gaddis, Chris LaRoy, Tyler Judge, Scotty Hawkins, Will Bush, Aaron Holmes, Jeremy Adcock, Ryan Cole, Jesse Sharp, Kevin Harris, Dustin King, Joseph Dillehay, Justin O'Guin, John Widener, Nathan Jarrett, Joe Bledsoe, Daniel Gray, David Mapes, Andrew McGregor, Jesse Wagner, Michael Day, Matt Armistead, Josh McEarl, Adam Hanes, Jason Buckner, Ryan Holmes, Jonathan Miller, Mychael Smith, Ricky Ellis, Eric Carpenter, Clinton Van der Westhuizen, Gary Adcock, Darrell McDaniel, Robert Keene, Brandon Barker, Joe Armistead, Casey Nash, Brandon Scott, Todd Stephens, and Pete Bloodworth; and

WHEREAS, Coach Porter was strongly supported by Principal Jeff Cordell, Assistant Principal Jeff Bennett, team physicians Dr. Stewart Stowers and Dr. Allen Walker, trainer Rick Baker, football secretary Debbie Richardson, and inspirational team Chaplain Randy Brown; and

WHEREAS, the hard-working managers were: Sara Misch, Amanda Baird, Donna Fleming, Wendy Blackmon, Torie McClung, Becky Foster and Kristen Leonard. The always accurate statisticians were Joe Draper, Kris Freeman and Brian Wise. The equipment crew was led by Jimmy Buckner, the film crew, which played an important role, were Mr. and Mrs. Harold Williams. The diligent "Blue Devil Network" (cable crew) consisted of Billy Jackson, Trudy Jackson, Randy Cline, Bryce Ruth and Martha Ruth; and

WHEREAS, the enthusiastic cheerleaders, under the excellent sponsorship of Mary Faires were: Lindsey Whitson, Kristen Clemmer, Dana Newby, Brooke Bailey, Sara Plott,

Stephanie Story, Andrea Wright, Ryan Mequiar, Jaime Vanderwalker, Emily Enderson, Angie Martin and Brooke Vantrease; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to recognize this special team who has been a tremendous credit to Tennessee, to their school and to their community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Coach Jeff Porter and the outstanding 1997 White House High School football team on winning the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, Division 1, Class 3-A state championship and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and to each person named above with this final clause omitted from such copy.